

FREE THE FIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #5 JULY 15 '83



PROTECT THE EARTH

The 5 people that are in Oakalla now are facing a massive array of charges relating to acts committed, or allegedly planned, against institutions of death.* This is perhaps the first time that people have ever faced charges such as these, relating to PROTECTING THE EARTH. It is good to be concerned about our future but we must be concerned about RIGHT NOW! The brutalities & atrocities. There are people suffering right now because they refused to be VICTIMS to this nuclear greed - Leonard Peltier is doing two consecutive life terms because he loved his people & the Earth & had to protect them when the agents came on to Pine Ridge to attack & divert attention from what they were really up to...stealing reserve land away because it was rich in uranium for their nuclear death machines. Karen Silkwood refused to be a victim & they killed her because she was exposing the nuclear industry's disregard for worker & citizen safety. And there was an attempt on the life of Rosalie Bertell, a Catholic nun, because she understood health hazards & speaks publicly on the nuclear industry's complicity at coverup. These are just a few examples. The attack upon women & women's values is also very serious, very real & it is happening right now! We have to fight against it. Defend ourselves & go on the offensive too!

We want to talk also about FREEDOM. It's a universal struggle & a very spiritual, heartfelt one. It is key to everything we believe & it goes beyond the peace movement. And we move toward freedom by stepping away from the system's attempts at victimizing us. By acting. It is not easy because the system deals harshly with those who are not victims, & who act. And it escalates in

response to the accuracy & success of our acts. But we will never see freedom in our lives, or our children's, without taking those risks.

"The individuals who acted in the name of Direct Action were not merely frustrated individuals. They were acting quite consciously to open up another front against the War Machine. This strategy need not undercut the methods of principled pacifists. The more militant tactics should make a non-violent movement more visible rather than less credible.

The peace movement in N.A. has so far not been able to stop one death or the positioning of one missile, in spite of all our efforts at pursuing legal channels. Patience would be a virtue if the situation were not so serious & the danger so immediate. Peace is not only the absence of war. It means the end of starvation & everyday oppression. It means the end of devastation of the natural world. It requires the destruction of social structures in which the few end up with power & privilege while the many are attacked by poverty, patriarchy, & ecological poisoning."

Public opinion is changing but the powers are continuing rapidly with implementing their technology of death & developing the police & security apparatus to defend it. All we are asking is that we all tell it like it is. Describe the severity of the situation & develop an opposition that at least meets it. Let's not move backwards. As the Red Nations do, we must be Warriors that defend the Earth & the people. If the time is not now, when is it?

quotes are excerpted from a leaflet "Indirect Action", Toronto, Ontario

*WHO ARE THE VANCOUVER FIVE?

Arrested on Jan. 20/83, Julie Belmas, Ann Hansen, Gerry Hannah, Doug Stewart, & Brent Taylor face 19-24 charges each. Firebombing of 3 porno video outlets; sabotage of B.C. Hydro substation (destined for nuclear use); sabotage of Litton Industries (produces the guidance system for Cruise Missiles); & a variety of charges relating to political conspiracy, weapons possession & stolen property. The State creates the "spectre of terrorism" in a losing attempt to turn public opinion against largely popular acts.

legal update

ONGOING ATTEMPTS FOR BAIL

- *Feb. & March 4 court appearances relating to bail. Bail denied for all 5.
- *April 20. Direct Indictment laid. Preliminary hearings cancelled.
- *May 19 & 20. Bail hearing towards the first trial. Doug Stewart denied bail. Postponed for the others.
- *June 10. Date setting for remainder of bail hearing.
- *July 8. Ann Hansen & Brent Taylor defended themselves at their new bail hearing giving a capacity New Westminster court a positive dose of political education. Gerry Hannah chose not to participate, & was remanded in jail until trial. Julie Belmas' hearing was put off until later in the month.

Despite the fact that after a tense, yet lively day the judge again ordered them to be kept behind bars - it was clear to most of us that Ann & Brent had done an excellent job of questioning the court & turning the proceedings around by being confident, articulate & even humorous. Both of them talked about the sham of the so-called "justice" system, but also addressed the more immediate



issue of how they can be expected to prepare an adequate defense from a prison cell, where every visit is monitored and the need for access to law libraries & privacy with witnesses is impossible.

Four witnesses were called to the stand. Two of them have offered to put up their houses as surety & have emphasized their confidence that the defendants would honour a personal commitment to them, to keep any bail conditions.

A ban on evidence from the court prevents us from relaying more of the proceedings in the courtroom - but some of the witnesses spoke with the press afterwards. One witness, the chairperson for the Canadian Coalition For Nuclear Responsibility emphasized the urgency of everyone getting involved in fighting against the buildup of nuclear arms & the destruction of the environment. Another witness, from Rape Relief, detailed how pornography & nukes are the danger to the public, not feminists & environmentalists as the court claims.

What happened in the courtroom that day was a small amount of people's justice. They spoke for themselves, of their lives & their commitment to humanity & struggle. Truth, not prosecution lies, was heard.

COURT SEARCHES

So it seems we won a minor victory over court searches, since the June 10 hearing, when court staff purposefully slowed the search process so that only one person got in the court before the hearing was finished. Dozens of supporters & some journalists made a group protest at the time & a detailed letter was submitted outlining our demands. They were forced to respond & so security measures have been relaxed somewhat.

illusions exposed



- On June 13th, Toronto Police raided a house there, where work for the Free the Five Support centered. The raids were part of an ongoing investigation into the bombing of the Litton Systems Plant, in October 1982. On the search warrant in fact several "political offences" were suspect; including sabotage, procuring an abortion, & seditious libel (advocacy of the use of violence outside the law to bring a change in govt.) One woman (who was not involved in the Free the Five Support) has been charged with "procuring (performing) an abortion" & other related charges. This is at a time when the right to choice & women's self-help movements are facing an increasing attack, especially in the East. Others in the house are facing a minor charge of possession of marijuana. It is clear that the harassment was intended to disrupt their political work & personal lives, & further the "terrorism hysteria", to tie up their money & energy in courtroom battles. Guilt by (idea) association??
- After the Feb. 16th raids on four feminist homes in Vancouver, one woman has been repeatedly harassed. After months of endless parking tickets, towings, & surveillance, she was charged with possession of stolen property over \$200 - (a 7 year old clarinet) seized in the raids. Two months later, a second woman was charged with the identical offence. Court hearings begin in late August.
- An organizer of the Peace Camp on Ottawa's Parliament Hill just confessed to being an RCMP informer. Andy Moxley says he has provided the RCMP with information about various groups, including peace groups, for two years; including information on "dangerous Canadians" and persons who "expound radical ideas."

progress

Articles about the Five have now appeared in journals all over North America & Europe - in English, French, German & Dutch. They've reached the feminist, leftist, anti-nuke/environmental, radical music & liberal communities.

New support groups have started up in New York City, San Francisco, & London, England. There is still ongoing support work in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Seattle, Santa Cruz, Philadelphia, Detroit...

Friends of the Five
c/o Bound Together Bookshop
1369 Haight St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Vancouver 5 Support Group
c/o Greenpeace (London)
6 Endsleigh St.
London WC1, England

Benefits have recently taken place in Dayton, Ohio; Santa Cruz, CA; New York City; Winnipeg, Manitoba & again here in Vancouver. We had a great benefit at the York Theatre with 650 people who came to hear five bands, including D.O.A. We made \$1500 & had a wild time too!

A group of people in Vancouver are currently working on an info. package to solicit support from selected radical "name bands" in N.A. & England.

The international support is really encouraging, & essential too. And it is not just for the support of individuals, but for all political prisoners & freedom fighters. That shall never be forgotten. Again, to all those who have expressed their concern in any form, thank you. It is felt deeply.

to contribute support:

*TURNING OFF THE TAP

Electronic Surveillance Workshop
Thursday. July 21, 7:30 p.m.

First United Church, 320 E. Hastings

(presented by: Civil Liberties Action Security Project)

*POLITICAL TRIALS - Workshop

August (date & location to be announced)

*LETTERS OF SUPPORT for the Toronto woman facing charges of "procuring an abortion" can be sent to:

P.O. Box 5052, Sta. A

Toronto, Ontario M5W 1W4

*WRITE LETTERS to any of the 5 incarcerated: Julie Belmas, Ann Hansen, Gerry Hannah, Doug Stewart, Brent Taylor at:
Oakalla Prison, Drawer "O", Burnaby B.C. V5H 3N4

*FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS to the defense work:

FREE THE VANCOUVER FIVE DEFENSE GROUP

Account #91740-1

C/O CCEC Credit Union

205 E. 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1J7

*ANY OTHER IDEAS/INFO to share, contact us at:

Free the Vancouver Five Defense Group

P.O. Box 48296, Bentall Station

Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

